

LINDY PENDERGRASS

Sheriff of Orange County

Hillsborough, North Carolina, 27278

**ORIGINAL
FILE**

August 17, 1992

RECEIVED
Office Phone: Hillsborough 732-2431
Chapel Hill 942-6300
Residence Phone: 929-5535

Honorable Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N W
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC MAIL BRANCH
AUG 20 1992

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I have received information that Federal Communications Commission is presently conducting hearings on Billed Party Preference CC Docket No. 92-77.

FCC MAIL BRANCH

These hearings are proposing as I understand after reading the report, private companies could possibly be eliminated from providing inmate telephone services from jails.

Some eighteen months ago we rolled a phone cart around in our jail for the inmates to use. This not only consumed manpower but was not effective. Inmates could not reach family or friends during work hours etc; during time allowed to use the phone.

We contacted our local phone company Centel and received and asked if they would place phones in all cells. They replied putting pay phones in all cell blocks would not be cost effective for them. They would install regular phones which we would have to pay a monthly rate; this we could not afford.

We heard about private phone services and asked Pay-Tel Company to come in and give us a perspective of how they could improve our phone service for inmates. After speaking with Pay-Tel we accepted their services.

We since have used this private phone company and readily will state; they have provided our inmates with a 24 hour phone service to call anywhere anytime they wish.

This service has also provided revenue for this county off-setting jail cost to our citizens.

I hope you will find time to look into this matter and allow private companies to continue to provide private phone services to our jails. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lindy Pendergrass
Sheriff of Orange County

cc: Honorable Sherrie Marshall
Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Honorable Ervin S. Duggan
Mr. Gary Phillips, Common Carrier Bureau

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